

WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1868.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Through the kindness of agents to make returns of collections for the Union, and from other causes, the books have fallen into much confusion. We are busily engaged in the labor of straightening them up, and are sending out all the accounts now apparently due. It is quite possible that we may send bills to many persons who have already settled with the agents, but as we have no other means of ascertaining the exact state of their accounts, we shall be obliged to them to reply thereto without delay. The agencies have been discontinued, and hereafter the paper will not be sent except upon advanced payment. The present confusion has its origin in the credit system, a system which we shall abandon entirely. Those persons to whom bills are sent who have already settled with the agents will please notify us, so that our books may be corrected accordingly, and the proper credits be given.

April 13—17

Business Notice.

As the business of the Union establishment, in view of the proposed change in its terms, will be conducted strictly on a cash basis, all agents for the collection of subscriptions for the Union are discontinued. No payments should be made to agents after this date, except to Mr. W. C. Thompson, Jr., who is authorized to make collections in Baltimore, Maryland, and New York.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
C. B. H. Fessenden, collector of the customs at New Bedford, Massachusetts; reappointed.
Moses F. Odell, of New York, appraiser of merchandise, under the act approved March 3d, 1851, vice Stephen D. Dillaye, removed.

OUR EXPERIMENT OF FREE GOVERNMENT.

It is astonishing to see how little regard is paid, in our modern times, to the conservative formalities and fundamental principles of government established by our fathers. Our government was felt in its origin to be an experiment. Free institutions had signally failed in all ages and all countries of the world in which they had been tried. The experiment of them on our own continent was esteemed a final one. A large class of our early statesmen were without confidence in free institutions, and warmly advocated, at the outset of our government, a monarchy, limited and restricted after the manner of the English as a model. Another class, less despondent of the result, and more reliant upon the intelligence and virtue of the people, insisted upon a new experiment; and, in framing our institutions, used all the precaution and circumspection becoming in so delicate, doubtful, and difficult an undertaking.

They carefully limited the franchise of citizenship. They threw a great many qualifications around the right of suffrage, and they especially and zealously guarded the franchise of eligibility to office. Turn to the first constitutions of our States as well as to the constitution of the confederacy, and what a contrast do they present with our modern instruments of that class, concocted in a week or fortnight, and ordained by formalities little above the solemnity and dignity of party mass meetings in towns, or political barbecues in the country! The difference between our early constitutions and those of contemporaneous manufacture might be aptly stated by ascribing that the first were made and ordained as if intended by their framers to be religiously respected and observed, the other as if expressly intended to be wantonly violated and repudiated at the whim of the populace. Compare the deliberation and circumspection that were used in the enactment of the ordinance of 1787, with (what we might call) if there was such a thing in politics) the blasphemous haste and informality used by Jim Lane and his confederates in getting up the Minnesota-Leavenworth "constitution" in Kansas. In the early days of the republic they went about the forming of constitutions in the solemn and earnest spirit of men engaged in laying the foundations of great commonwealths. Now, they go about the task as factious partisans, merely framing a set of resolutions for a partisan campaign; studying to infuse in these instruments, not the elements of strength and stability for future empire, but the largest possible leaven of *ad captandam* demagoguism for immediate campaign use.

The experiment of self-government instituted by the founders of our institutions is still an experiment in our hands. Its success is even more doubtful now than it was in their day. How many melancholy failures of it have there been in the more southern portions of our continent! Look abroad, even in our oldest and most populous States, and does the disorderly condition of affairs in our populous cities; does the decaying condition of morals—public, private, or even church morals—in our most populous States, argue the experiment to be a successful one?

We think not. And, if we turn westward, and contemplate the loose manner in which new Territories are constituted and new States organized; if we consider the hot-bed growth of new commonwealths and the ship-shod and slatternly plight in which new States, of no pretence to maternal decency and decorum, are admitted to the sisterhood of the Union, we shall find reason to tremble for the success of our great experiment of free government.

This winter's congressional proceedings would make a sad and sad chapter in the history of this great experiment, if Congress should refuse to admit Kansas into the Union under the constitution which was ordained at Leavenworth with all the deliberation, formalities, and solemnities prescribed by the law, and left to come into the Union under that creation of a week, the Minnesota-Leavenworth instrument. Between a constitution which confers only upon citizens of the United States the elective franchise and eligibility to office, and a constitution which admits negroes, mixed breeds, and incomers from all quarters of the earth, clattering all the tongues of Babel, to these privileges, the founders of our institutions would have made a very prompt decision. It remains to be seen whether the present Congress of the United States have any of the conservatism of character, respect for legal forms, and circumspect concern for the success of a great but hazardous experiment in government, which characterized their ancestors, and which ruled in establishing the original States of our confederacy.

THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE.

We learn that the committee of conference appointed by the two houses upon the Kansas bill held a meeting yesterday morning, and that the consideration of the matter referred to them was postponed, on account of the indisposition of Mr. Stephens, until half past ten o'clock to-day.

LECOMPTON IN KANSAS.

The republicans, during their opposition to the admission of Kansas under the Leavenworth constitution, have assumed as a basis of their policy, that in acceptance by Congress would incite the people of that Territory to rebellion, and the flame once lighted, it would extend over the entire land, the country become involved in civil war, and the Union dissolved. This has been the burden of their song, and from early morn till dewy eve the halls of the Capitol have resounded to this cry. In their opposition to this measure they profess to have but one motive—the giving of peace and rest to that long-agonized and distressed Territory, staunching the wounds of bleeding Kansas, and thus saving the Union from being dissolved and its integral parts scattered to the four winds. Unable, in and of themselves, to accomplish their purposes by virtue of various promises, they finally formed a combination in the House that for the time succeeded; but which, like all base acts committed for selfish ends, can be but ephemeral. When persons who have thus far acted with them shall stop and take the sober second thought, when they shall understand how completely they have been used as a cat's-paw in this matter, when many of them, their services being no longer needed, shall be flung aside like mere vile actors upon the stage, who, when the play is ended, are no longer required—we say, when they realize all this, we have no doubt they will in disgust abandon the coalition now formed, and quit its ranks as rapidly as rats desert a sinking ship.

The question now has assumed this phase: Kansas admitted into the Union with the Leavenworth constitution, with full power to change, alter, modify, or amend the same whenever the people may direct; or Kansas still a Territory, the agitation still to be continued, the seething caldron kept boiling, and no peace, or quiet, given to that already distracted people. The republicans say "take just what we offer you or nothing." "We have marked out the course we want you Kansas men to travel in, and that course is the one which we think will best aid our party in 1860." "We don't care anything in particular for your interests; all we desire is that you shall continue to shriek, and Kansas bleed, so that our stock-in-trade may not be exhausted." But possibly the people of Kansas may have something to say on this subject. Let's see for a moment. We refer our rabid northern agitators against the adoption of the Leavenworth constitution to the following paragraphs from leaders and newspapers in Kansas. Here is what H. Miles Moore, of Leavenworth city, one of the ablest and staunchest free-State men, a leading member of the late territorial legislature, and who stumped almost the entire North in 1856 for "Fremont and Freedom," says on the subject:

"I have never seen the emergency yet arise in Kansas that would justify the people of Kansas in taking grounds against the federal government, or rebellion. When we have exhausted every means of peace, when we can be supported by our friends, then I will be willing to defend our rights in this land."
"This extreme—the Kansas throughout the Territory—may be very agreeable to some people, but I have suffered too much from it—I have lost too much in pocket and person to imperil all for nothing upon such a turbulent sea. I believe the people of this Territory want peace, and they will have peace, and have it peacefully, too. We have a law, and all that is necessary is, to see that it is powerfully enforced. Suppose the Leavenworth wind is forced upon it. I say let it come, and I, for one, am ready to meet it. Let it come in any shape; we have the majority in the legislature; we have the power, and let us use it to destroy and crush out that constitution. Let us use it so long as may be necessary to use it to establish a good government. I am not a democrat, and I am not a free-State man of Kansas, and am not struggling here to destroy the democratic party in the States, or to build up the republican party there, but to make Kansas a free State, and, for one, shall never commit myself to any other party, until this is done."

The following is from the Herald of Freedom of March 27, 1858:

"Lane says the passage of that swindle will not make a ripple on the surface of Kansas affairs. Moore says we have a majority in the legislature under the swindle, and we will use that power to establish a good government. The Herald of Freedom says 'it will not create civil war.' The people say Amen! And yet a class of fanatical journalists endeavor to every measure they have advocated in Kansas, are now seeking to fight free-State men unless they will join in a revolutionary movement against the government. If a certain class of journals in this Territory could have their own way, one month would not intervene until Kansas would again be cursed with civil war. To ask those who desire the restoration of civil liberty to the people of Kansas to immediately without war, to go out revolution, without deluging our Territory in blood—to eschew such journals."

The Leavenworth Times says: "Give us the Leavenworth constitution and we will change it at once." S. P. Chase, of Ohio, in a letter dated March 12, 1858, addressed to G. W. Brown, of the Herald of Freedom, uses the following language:

"It seems to me that the crisis in the affairs of Kansas has arrived, and, being far more anxious for the success of the free-State cause than for any mere party or personal success, I have watched with the greatest anxiety the course of events in the Territory, hoping they may be shaped as to result in a substantial free-State triumph."

In case of the acceptance of the Leavenworth constitution, Governor Chase says:

"Let the free-State legislators and State officers actually elected, together with any slave-State members actually elected, meet immediately in session at Leavenworth, by a vote of Congress, with a State government organized in all its branches, legislative, executive, and judicial, will call them to give certificates to defeated candidates? Hardly. Results, not names or forms, are what I want."

Of the Minnesota constitution just framed, the Herald of Freedom says:

"We regret to learn that only about 5,000 votes, out of over 15,000 in the Territory, were cast for delegates to the constitutional convention now in session. To give that act any authority it should have received the very general acquiescence of the people; but it lacks this, and it framed it will be subject to the same charge that we are daily urging with truth against the Leavenworth constitution—that it was made by a minority of the people."
"The hearty support of the people can never be given to that constitution, however wise may be its provisions, unless circumstances shall render it imperative. These circumstances are to be developed in the future, if at all."

The Crusader of Freedom, in its issue of the 26th ult., has the following:

"The Crusader of Freedom henceforth will not be the organ of any party, or of any man, the editor alone accepted, and will refuse to support any ticket or any political aspirant who does not announce himself openly as a democrat. Regarding the free-State party as an organization, we have no objection to its purpose of promoting the political designs of a number of ambitious demagogues, I shall refuse to fight under that banner any longer, but will hold the republican flag. Kansas is free. The mission of the free-State party is ended. There is no organized pro-slavery party in Kansas now, and no possible use of any organized opposition to nothing. But there are two distinct political parties in Kansas—the republicans and the democrats; and the tendency of the present free-State organization is to invest the democratic with power. Gen. Lane will have no control, direct or indirect, over the columns of this journal; and if any attempt is made by him, or by any of his agents, to renew the disturbances in the Territory, I shall oppose him as resolutely as I would resist any other aspiring politician."

Can any man who really desires to settle this vex-

ed question, and give the people of Kansas peace, after reading the above extracts do longer as to the course to be pursued? There is but one way: Take the Leavenworth constitution, and settle the rest to the people of Kansas; they will settle it in their own way. Only once get it out of Congress, and give them the power.

THE BLACK-REPUBLICAN PROGRAMME.

In one of our articles, some days ago, we stated that regarding the Executive and Congress as already won by reason of the preponderance of the free over the slave States, the next step of the republican party would be to remodel the Supreme Court, so as to place that department also in their hands. We find this prediction of ours fully corroborated by the New York Evening Post, a leading abolition organ. The Post says:

"We expect to have a clear republican majority in the House of Representatives of the next Congress, (the 36th); a republican President and Vice President and cabinet for 1861, elected by the votes of every free State; and a clear majority in the Senate too, at least in the 38th Congress, (1863), which will make the working portion of the government a unit. Suppose an act of Congress should be passed calling a national convention to revise and amend the constitution of the United States; with half the determination and none of the rascality employed by the administration to carry the Leavenworth outrage, the cooperation of a majority of the State legislatures might be secured to appoint delegates to the convention, and the convention might proceed to amend the constitution, abolishing slavery, and giving representation and the surrender of fugitive slaves, altering the apportionment to correspond, and remodelling the Supreme Court, so as to vacate the bench at once, and require new judges to be appointed, and then simply order the next succeeding election to be held under the new schedule, the returns to be made and elections certified by the president of the convention."

"On the 4th of March, 1865, the government would be peaceably inaugurated on the new basis, ready for harmonious and resistless action in all its branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. And any minority of States would find themselves without remedy or deliverance. They would be within the boundaries and occupying the territory of the United States, and subject to all the laws thereof, as at present. Other nations would at once recognize the authority of the government and its right to the exercise of its own laws within its own bounds, as heretofore. And no power on earth could review or alter the result."

THE MUNICIPAL NOMINATION.

The democratic nomination for mayor has been received with cordiality and enthusiasm, and there is every reason to believe that the united anti-know-nothing vote will be given for Colonel Bannan. The friends of other gentlemen, who struggled with commendable zeal to secure the nomination for their respective favorites, now unite with a cordiality that assures a triumphant campaign and a crowning victory.

The citizens at large, whose home interests are involved in the coming contest, feel that in Colonel Bannan they have a candidate worthy of their confidence and of their support. He is a man of unspotted integrity, of patriotic impulses, and of marked fitness for the station. His previous public services are a sure guarantee of his administrative ability, and of the confidence that if elected he will maintain the tranquillity and advance the prosperity of the city, by a strict and an impartial performance of his official duties.

We are well aware that the leaders of the routed cohorts of know-nothingism are seeking an opportunity to rally their forces around some new flag, which may entice the unwary into their ranks. To carry out their hatred to the democratic party they may profess to be "no-party men"—the most dangerous and insidious of opponents—but we feel assured that their schemes will not succeed, cunningly though they may be laid. Democrats will sustain the regular nomination made by a convention of their party, and the candidate of that convention, Colonel Bannan, will receive the cordial and the united support of a large majority of the citizens of the national metropolis.

POLITICS IN KANSAS.

(From the Leavenworth Daily Ledger.)

RICH REVELATIONS.—Whilst the constitutional convention was in session, a spirit of revelation, at one time, was in the air. If they had continued in session a short time longer, we feel satisfied that we would have learned where all the funds for "bleeding Kansas" came from, and "what" they went to.

In course of debate Mr. Fish, a member of the convention, and a member of the Topeka legislature, regaled us with the following within his own knowledge:

First. That two-thirds of our leading free-State men, in Burlington, Iowa, for the good of the cause, to be subject to Governor Robinson's order.

Second. Two thousand dollars had been subscribed in Quincy, Illinois, for the same purpose, and subject to the same gentleman's order.

Third. That the Hon. Henry Wilson, a senator of the United States, if they had continued in session a short time longer, would have furnished the funds to pay the expenses of the Topeka legislature.

To this third item of revelation we call particular attention. What a pity for "suffering humanity" that Mr. Fish was not allowed to make a clean breast of it!

A GOOD TIME COMING.—We were somewhat surprised, yesterday, to learn that after all the "howling" and "yelping" that has been indulged in concerning one John Calhoun, president of one constitutional convention, he should be invited to return to Kansas, and locate his office in our city, the very centre of yelping; but such is the fact. Further than this, the letter of invitation is signed by a large number of our leading free-State men, some of whom, at least, expect favors from the State convention which assembles at Topeka on the 28th of this month; and, in order that our readers may take a peep at this skull-dugger, we give the substance of the letter addressed and sent to General Calhoun, day before yesterday. It says:

Your relative, Mr. Diefendorf, has informed us that you have expressed a strong desire to return to Kansas, and remove the office of surveyor general to this city, but, owing to threats which have been made here by some of our citizens against your life, you fear you would be molested, and that your life would not be safe.

"We beg leave to assure you, my dear sir, that you, and the office of surveyor general, would be a very important acquisition to our city; and, should you make the change suggested, you need not fear the slightest danger to your person or property."

This document is signed by Henry J. Adams, Mayor H. S. Foote, S. N. Latta, and quite a number of others. We have no particular objection to this invitation, save that it should have been extended to Jack Henderson, Col. Clarkson, and Judge Cato, as well as to General Calhoun.

Why not "beg leave to assure" Mr. Henderson, Mr. Clarkson, and Mr. Cato that their person and property would be safe here, as well as General Calhoun?

If it has been discovered so suddenly that General Calhoun would be "a very important acquisition to our city," most assuredly the other gentlemen would make the "acquisition" more "important."

This letter shows us of two things, to-wit: that all this "howling" and "yelping" that has been indulged in concerning General Calhoun, the chief rebel rouser, and his associates, was never intended; or that some political trick is to be played off on the people very shortly. At all events, let the invitations be extended; and by all means let us have the letter.

REMOVAL OF OFFICE.—Leavenworth, March 23, 1858.

The editor of the National Democrat will please give notice—

1st, that no county boundaries were changed; 2d, that no county names were changed; 3d, that no territorial road bill passed, but that a road bill giving the county authorities power to lay out roads did; 4th, that the power and jurisdiction of the probate court was not increased, except in the case of fraudulent elections at the recent session of the territorial legislative assembly.

By giving this information publicly, you will be conferring a favor on numerous persons applying to this office for the same.

H. S. WALSH.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Three days later, the steamer Africa, from Liverpool, 3d inst., has arrived at Sandy Hook.

The steamer Kangaroo had arrived out. The political news by the Africa is unimportant.

The Atlantic cable was being taken on board the Niagara and the transmission very rapidly, and the separation would be finished about the 10th of May. Some further deep-sea sounding and experiments are deemed necessary before laying the cable is commenced; but the company have yet seen no cause to doubt the ultimate success of the enterprise.

Fears have increased in England for the safety of the African mail steamer Gambila, nearly one month overdue there.

The relations between France and Switzerland continue in an unsatisfactory state, and give rise to considerable uneasiness in diplomatic circles. The Paris Bourse had lost its buoyancy, and was daily declining.

Spain continues to send reinforcements into the Gulf of Mexico, and measures for the public safety were organized at Madrid.

The Bank of Holland had reduced its rate of discount to 3½ per cent.

The Ottoman Porte is said to have rejected the demand of France for the authorization of a ship-canal across the Isthmus of Suez.

COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, April 3.—Sales of cotton for the week 50,000 bales, including 6,500 on speculation, 8,500 bales for export. Prices were considerably lower; inferior qualities having declined ¼ to ½, and middling ¼ to ½, fair ¼ to ½, and good ¼ to ½. The market closed dull generally, but holders were not pressing; fair Orleans, 7½; middling Orleans, 6½; fair Mobile, 7½; middling, 6½; fair uplands, 7½; middling, 6½. (The market was closed from the 1st to the 5th for the holidays.)

Manchester market dull.

At Havre New Orleans free ordinary was quoted 102½. Breadstuffs were dull, as were provisions. Lard is firm, and slightly lower.

Consols 86½ a 86½ for money. The £5,000,000 India loan was taken—an average of 98.

Richardson, Spence, & Co. report breadstuffs quiet, there having been no market since the advices per City of Washington. Beef dull, but steady. Pork steady, and at various other points the market was quiet. Lard firm, and in advance; quoted 5½ a 5½. Sugar steady at 3d. 3d. 4d. 6d. Sugar dull at 6d. decline. Coffee dull; inferior qualities rather lower, and quotations unchanged. Spirits turpentine firm at 4½. Rice heavy.

LONDON, April 3.—Breadstuffs are quiet, and all articles slightly declined. Sugar heavy at 6d. a lb. Coffee steady at 6d. decline. Spirits turpentine firm and slightly lower. American securities dull. The bullion in bank had declined £205,000.

Important from Venezuela.

NEW YORK, April 16.—Advices from Caracas of the 31st of March announce that a provisional government had been inaugurated, who demanded from the French Consul at Caracas the release of a French citizen, who had taken refuge with him. They were surrounded, and are in confinement. It is said they had departed at the French legation one million in gold.

Gen. Castro had decreed the removal of all employees of the late government. It is said the American consul, Mr. H. B. Hall, in conjunction with the Agents of Spain, had been met at the door of the French consul, threatening to haul it down and demand his passports if any attempt was made to arrest Monagas, (then at the legation.)

Remains of Mr. Benton at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, April 14.—The remains of Mr. Benton arrived here at 1 o'clock this afternoon, and were escorted to the residence of Col. Brant by the military and a large concourse of citizens.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

ST. LOUIS, April 16.—Yesterday the remains of Colonel Benton were exposed in state in the Library Hall, which was most appropriately draped in mourning. They were visited by at least 25,000 persons. The final rites of sepulture took place this morning, and were participated in by the military and benevolent societies, firemen, members of the city councils, and the citizens generally. As a general thing, business was suspended. The stores and houses were draped in mourning, and the streets densely crowded with thousands of spectators.

The Freshets.

ST. LOUIS, April 14.—Frightful consequences are likely to ensue from the present flood along the Lower Mississippi, which is now higher at some places than was ever known. From the accession of the combined floods accruing from the upper rivers, the Mississippi is rising from St. Paul down to this point. The Missouri and Illinois rivers are both high, and rising, and all their tributaries are at flood height. These high waters are occasioned by heavy mists extending through the whole western and northwestern country, and are not the usual spring mountain rise. Should that follow before the present flood subsides, the whole lower country will, doubtless, be inundated.

PITTSBURGH, April 14.—The river rose rapidly to-day, and there is now 15 feet of water in the channel and station.

NEW ORLEANS, April 16.—The crevasse still continues, notwithstanding efforts made to stop it. Another rise is coming down the river.

Steamboat Disasters.—Loss of Life.

NEW ORLEANS, April 14.—The boiler of the steamer Falls City exploded to-day just as the boat was leaving her pier. Seven or eight persons were killed and others were injured. Mr. John Simonds was among the wounded.

CHICAGO, April 15.—The steamer Venture was sunk yesterday opposite Gallopis during a gale of wind, and eight of her crew drowned.

Duel at Paris.

NEW YORK, April 16.—A letter to the Commercial Advertiser says that a duel had occurred at Paris between Mr. Calhoun, secretary of the American legation, and Mr. Brevoort, of New York. Shots were once exchanged, when, owing to an informality in arrangements, the seconds interfered.

Slavery.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The slavery resolution was discussed to-day in the New York State Methodist Conference. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Hatfield advocated, and Dr. Bangs opposed it, saying this was a matter with which the conference had nothing to do, and he did not believe it was sinful to own and sell slaves.

Duel.

NEW ORLEANS, April 15.—A duel took place near the city this morning between Harry Deas and W. J. Kennedy, both of Mobile. The weapons were pistols, carrying once balls; distance, 15 paces. At the first fire Mr. Kennedy received a bad hip wound, but hopes of recovery are entertained by his friends.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, April 16.—Flour is steady—Howard street, \$4 37½; Ohio, \$4 25; City Mills nominal. Wheat is steady—good to prime red, \$1 03 a \$1 06; fair to prime white, \$1 12 a \$1 18. Corn is lower—mixed and white, 63 a 67 cents; yellow, 65 a 67 cents. Whiskey is steady at 21 a 21½ cents. Provisions closed with an advancing tendency.

THE ALBANY ELECTION.—There was a complete fusion between the Americans and republicans in the election for city officers in Albany on Tuesday. Two years ago, at the last election for mayor, the Americans claimed to have carried their mayor alone, the republicans not then uniting with them. The matter, however, has ever since been in dispute between Mr. Perry, the American, and Dr. Quackenbush, the democratic candidate, and Albany has been blessed with two mayors.

The perfect union of the entire opposition on Mr. Perry, and the nomination by the democrats of Dr. Quackenbush, led to a straight fight this year. The result is the election of 11 democratic and 9 union aldermen; and the election of Mr. Perry for mayor by 98 majority over Mr. Quackenbush, in a vote of 9,300.

The Richmond papers contain full accounts of an inquiry upon the body of a man, named William Ennis, whose death, it was supposed, had resulted from barbarous treatment received by him from the officers of the bark Octavia, which arrived at that port on Monday last from Rio de Janeiro. The testimony presents a series of atrocities, which would disgrace a barbarous age. The jury of inquest returned a verdict attributing the death of Ennis to the "beating and starving received on the high seas from the captain and mates of the bark Octavia."

POLITICS IN ILLINOIS.

A meeting of the national democrats of Peoria was held in that city on the 15th inst., at which John W. H. Robinson presided. The meeting was called to select delegates to a county convention, to meet on the 15th instant. The annexed resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting freely, fully, frankly, and cordially endorses the wise and patriotic policy in the administration of public affairs that has characterized James Buchanan since his inauguration as President of the United States.

Resolved, That this meeting most emphatically repudiates the making of any treaty of amiable demerency, other than those that were so eloquently and powerfully set forth and unanimously adopted by the democratic party in national council, and endorsed in the election of James Buchanan to the chief magistracy of the American States.

We quote from the Peoria Democratic Union the following concerning the meeting:

The GREAT DEMOCRATIC UNION on Saturday evening last of the administration forces of the city of Peoria, notwithstanding the heavy inclemency of the weather, it having poured rain steadily for some twelve hours previous to the meeting, was an imposing affair, both in point of numbers and in being by far the largest political meeting held in this city for many months—and in the calm, dignified manner in which its proceedings were conducted. There was an entire absence of all wrangling, and the universal presence of the most fraternal harmony, and the administration leaders may well congratulate themselves upon the decided success in all respects that attended the meeting.

The chief object of the meeting, the election of twenty-three delegates to attend the county convention to be held in this city on the 15th inst., was at once proceeded with, and by reference to the proceedings to be found in another column it will be seen that twenty-three good men and true were chosen to represent the national administration and the out-and-out democracy of this city in that convention.

THE MISSISSIPPI.

(From the N. Y. Freeman.)

Those who have never seen the Mississippi when the gushing waters of a thousand streams that elsewhere would be ranked as rivers had given it a volume and power, a wild roar of waters broken by great swirls, and at various other points the waters of the river, who had taken a good boatman alone can safely pass, know little of the magnificence and sublimity of the view from our levee. Stand there, and let your thoughts trace the mighty flood now rushing by its source, and the little lakes of the far north, growing more and more turbid, deeper, broader, and less to be restrained by any ordinary obstacles, until it reaches the tribute of the Rocky mountains and the great American plains on the west, through the Missouri, the Arkansas, the Red, and their branches, and the waters from the great basin west of the Alleghenies, through the Ohio, and you begin to appreciate the idea of the Mississippi. It grows upon you as you gaze upon its steady sweep onward to the ocean, bearing along its course the debris of mountains and the foundations of new lands slowly rising from the floor of the Gulf of Mexico.

Just now its surface is above the general level of the land. It fills it from shore to shore, the wind dashing its waves in many places over the levee. Windy days at the foot of Belleville street, at the steamship landing, and at various other points, the water has been seen gradually sloping away towards the swamp, being broken away. The only fear is from the weakness of the embankments miles above us. Here a sleepless vigilance is necessary. The slightest crevice through which the water trickles may in an hour be enlarged to the dimensions of a river, pouring a current upon the rear of the city. The levee is broad and firm, and might even permit the water to swell even so that no more could be contained without these massive mounds, gradually sloping away towards the swamp, being broken away. The only fear is from the weakness of the embankments miles above us. Here a sleepless vigilance is necessary. The slightest crevice through which the water trickles may in an hour be enlarged to the dimensions of a river, pouring a current upon the rear of the city.

Such experiences are recorded in the past history of New Orleans.

The news of the fall of all the tributaries of our great river, however, gives us a feeling of ease. We can enjoy the sublimity of the scene presented without any feeling of anxiety. It is a spectacle which is rarely witnessed that can never be witnessed, and is not to be compared to the equal of which no other people can look upon.

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.

We gather from the Santa Fe Gazette of the 6th and 13th of March the subjoined items of news from the Territory of New Mexico:

The spring term of the first judicial circuit commenced its session on the 8th of March, Judge Kirby Benedict, of the third district, presiding in the absence of the regular judge for the first district. There were on the docket, 50 criminal and 30 civil cases, five of the former involving capital punishment. Theodore Wheaton, esq., having resigned the office of attorney general, Governor Reicher tendered the appointment to Richard H. Tompkins, esq., who accepted the position, and immediately entered upon the discharge of his official duties.

On the first of March a Mexican peon of Simon Delgado was murdered by a man named Antonio Padilla, in a difficulty growing out of the pawing of some article belonging to the peon, which was caused was committed to jail without the privilege of bail.

The Gazette announces the arrival in Santa Fe on the 4th of March of Dr. M. Stock, United States agent for the Apache Indians. The Indians of his agency are peacefully disposed, and no outrages have been committed by them since the Gila war. He officially reports the revolting massacre of eight Apaches in Dona Ana county on the 7th of February, which has been heretofore unnoticed. In addition to the brutal mutilation of the bodies of the women, who were murdered by cutting off their breasts, tearing out their tongues, and slicing up their hearts, another case occurred of equal brutality. An old Indian woman, at least sixty years of age, was shot through the body, stabbed in the back five different times, and then suspended by one foot from the pommel of the saddle by a rawhide, and dragged at the full speed of the horse down a hill for 400 yards. She was looted and left on the ground for dead. After the Mexicans had left, the other Indian women gathered around her, and ascertaining who were present, and that her tormentors had gone, she arose and walked off with her companions!

Nine or ten Navajo Indians are said to have stolen 2,000 sheep from the vicinity of Aliquippa. They were pursued by some Mexican and Utah Indians, and if overtaken were doubtless murdered.

Six of the chief men of the Utah Indians and five of the Navajos met in Santa Fe on the 11th, to talk about a peace with the Mexicans, and to discuss the present state of things. The Utahs positively refused to make peace, alleging that the Navajos were not in good faith, and instancing their recent stealing of sheep from Aliquippa as evidence. The Utahs say they assisted by the Apaches, intend to attack the Navajos next month. Agents Carson, Stock, Archuleta, and Yost, were present at the peace conference, as well as the following: Major Nichols and Sprague, Captain Easton, and Lieutenant Craig, of the army, and a number of citizens.

One of the Utahs present was the principal chief of the Talamachas, from Grand river, a band which have never before been considered within the Santa Fe superintendency. It was ascertained at one time that this band were being captured by